

JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE

Activity: Environmental Compliance and Review

Program Component	1999 Estimate	Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	2000 Budget Request	Change From 1999 (+/-)
Environmental Compliance and Review	358	15	0	373	+15
Total Requirements \$(000)	358	15	0	373	+15

AUTHORIZATION

16 U.S.C. 4601 - 4691-3	The Outdoor Recreation Act
42 U.S.C. 4321 - 4347	National Environmental Policy Act
49 U.S.C. 303	Department of Transportation Act
16 U.S.C. 1271 - 1287	Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
16 U.S.C. 4601 - 4601-11	Land and Water Conservation Fund Act
16 U.S.C. 3501 - 3510	Coastal Barrier Resources Act
23 U.S.C. 101	Federal Aid Highway Act of 1976
16 U.S.C Int et seq.	National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978
16 U.S.C. 1241 - 1251	National Trails System Act

OVERVIEW

The **Environmental Compliance and Review** activity provides the staff resources needed to review and comment on environmental impact statements, Federal licensing and permitting applications and other actions which may impact areas of the National Park Service jurisdiction and expertise. This activity, in addition, ensures compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental protection mandates; and provides comments on the effects on environmental quality resulting from proposed legislation, regulations, guidelines, and Executive Orders regarding wild and scenic rivers, national trails, wilderness, resource management plans and activities from other agencies, recreation composites, Federal surplus property transfers, and related projects and undertakings.

APPLICABLE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MISSION GOALS

- Ia Natural and cultural resources and associated values are protected, restored and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader ecosystem and cultural context.

Environmental Compliance and Review *FY 1999 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments*

Enacted: \$358,000

The Service is mandated to exercise stewardship over properties acquired, developed, or preserved through NPS grant programs and to protect other areas, such as wild and scenic rivers, cultural sites, and segments of the National Trails System. This protection can be achieved through effective participation in a variety of existing environmental mandates such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing, and permits issued under section 404 of the Clean Water Act. With the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, there is a requirement for increasing coordination with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in the review of new hydropower licenses in units of the NPS. To accomplish this coordination, the FERC and the NPS are developing counterpart regulations that will assure a unified and understandable process for potential applicants seeking to use the provisions of the Energy Policy Act applicable to units of the National Park System. While FERC-related responsibilities in this activity focuses primarily on regulatory compliance, mitigation and other resource

National Recreation and Preservation/Environmental Compliance and Review

protection measures are being addressed in the Hydropower Recreation Assistance component within the Natural Programs activity.

Leadership, guidance and training are provided by the Washington Office to Regional Offices, system support offices and park personnel responsible for participation in the preparation of environmental documents or other requirements of environmental mandates. Through the Washington Office, the Park Service coordinates its review activity with the Departmental Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance. The office provides, evaluates, and implements changes to operations within the NPS so that resources are adequately evaluated both in internal activities and external consultations with other Federal, State, and local agencies.

In carrying out its responsibilities for NEPA compliance, the Environmental Quality Division is responsible for establishing the procedures governing the development of environmental evaluations of Park Service actions, including impacts to park resources. So that a more effective evaluation process is achieved, revised processes have been implemented that state in "plain language" what is required of the NPS in carrying out its internal and external responsibilities in evaluating potential environmental impacts of projects. In addition, this guidance provides for increased opportunities for public involvement in carrying out these responsibilities.

- The Service maintains a central control system for receiving and tracking environmental documents and NPS responses. In 1998, the NPS received over 1200 incoming environmental documents produced by other agencies. The Service prepared over 200 Secretarial letters to the Department of Transportation and other reviews of transportation related matters. Over 200 review comments on license and permit applications were prepared that involved recreation, historic or archeological resources. Finally, over 700 review comments on proposed regulations and other land use management, development, or other proposals were completed for a total involvement in the development of nearly 2,000 comment letters and other project related activities. National Park Service reply time to these external processes has been reduced in the last four years. The NPS has implemented improvements in its current data management and document control system to increase use of technological advances in communications with field offices and units. Although the number of proposal related documents coming to the Service continues to be large, the environmental quality and review program has been successful in screening proposals that actually affect areas of NPS jurisdiction and expertise. On a site-specific basis, the Service responds to hundreds of proposals that may or would adversely impact both the units of the National Park System and other park and recreation interests.

Environmental compliance and review are key tools in developing protection strategies for park resources. Early participation in proposals of other agencies, such as airport expansion or modification of the operation of water development projects, allows for incorporation of resource considerations in the development of alternatives and the evaluation of potential impacts to park resources. Further, analysis of impacts within park system units resulting from NPS management actions provides an opportunity to adequately evaluate and modify proposals or mitigate impacts.

Environmental Compliance Workload Factors	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Estimate	FY 2000 Estimate
Number of review comments on license and permit applications prepared that involve recreation, historic or archeological resources.	200	200	200
Number of review comments prepared on proposed regulations	700	700	700